

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248027 TOSEC 160008

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: GISCARD VISIT TO USSR

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

1. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE
GISCARD VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OF THE COMMUNIQUE
SIGNED OCTOBER 17:

2. THE PRINCIPAL NEW ELEMENTS IN THE COMMUNIQUE WERE ONE
SUBSTANTIVE POINT (A SOVIET PROPOSAL) - AGREEMENT TO CALL
FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN WHICH ALL NUCLEAR
POWERS WOULD PARTICIPATE, BOTH IN THE PREPARATIONS AND IN
THE CONFERENCE ITSELF - AND ONE PROCEDURAL ELEMENT SOUGHT
BY FRANCE - AGREEMENT TO HOLD PERIODIC FRANCO-SOVIET SUMMIT
MEETINGS, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFICATION OF THE PERIODICITY, NOR
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EVEN OF THE DATE OF BREZHNEV'S RETURN VISIT TO FRANCE.

3. ON CSCE, THE COMMUNIQUE HAD ONLY ANODYNE LANGUAGE ON MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE ON IMPLEMENTATION AND READINESS TO CARRY OUT ALL PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT.

4. THE COMMUNIQUE MERELY RECORDED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR BANNING MANUFACTURE OF ARMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND THAT FUTURE-EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT

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WOULD TAKE PLACE.

5. ON NON-PROLIFERATION, THE COMMUNIQUE CALLED ONLY FOR UNILATERAL ASSUMPTION OF APPROPRIATE RESPONSIBILITIES, WITH INCLUSION OF THE FRENCH POINT ABOUT CONSIDERATION FOR LDC'S FOR WHOM "ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY CONSTITUTES A KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

6. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE COMMUNIQUE REITERATED LANGUAGE IN THE MARCH, 1975 BILATERAL COMMUNIQUE (WHEN PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC VISITED MOSCOW) CONCERNING THE "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING THAT TO A HOMELAND, AS WELL AS MENTION OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SURE AND RECOGNIZED FRONTIERS, ETC.

7. ON CYPRUS, THERE WERE NO NEW ELEMENTS, BUT REPETITION OF CALLS IN PREVIOUS BILATERAL COMMUNIQUE FOR "WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS", RESPECT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS, ETC.

8. BREZHNEV AND GISCARD ALSO SIGNED THREE AGREEMENTS ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY, TOURISM, AND CIVIL AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION (WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THESE TEXTS).

9. FOR GISCARD THE VISIT WAS PROBABLY A DISAPPOINTMENT, MARRED IRRECUPERABLY BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING BREZHNEV'S DRAMATIC CURTAILMENT OF THE TALKS. THOUGH BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED TO THE PRESS TODAY THAT THE RESCHEDULING AND SHORTENING WERE DUE TO A BAD COLD HE HAD TAKEN, THERE REMAINS MUCH SPECULATION - PARTICULARLY IN THE FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESS - THAT GISCARD RECEIVED PEREMPTORY TREATMENT BECAUSE BREZHNEV HAD FOUND GISCARD'S VIEWS UNCONGENIAL, E.G., THE PART OF GISCARD'S TOAST CALLING FOR EXTENSION OF DETENTE SO AS TO CURB IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION.

10. AT ANY RATE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE VISIT DID NOT FULLY SERVE GISCARD'S MAIN PURPOSE - TO PROVE HIMSELF THE WORTHY SUCCESSOR OF DE GAULLE AND POMPIDOU AS A WORLD

STATESMAN DEALING WITH BREZHNEV AS A RESPECTED EQUAL. INGERSOLL

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